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Meeting-5

25X1A

20 February 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Deputy Director (Administration) Staff Meeting

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PRESENT: Mr. Dulles, Mr. Wolf, Colonel White, [REDACTED] 25X1A9A
[REDACTED], General Morris, Colonel Edwards, [REDACTED] Colonel 25X1A9A
[REDACTED] Dr. Tietjen, and Messrs. [REDACTED] Houston, Saunders, 25X1A9A
Pforzheimer, [REDACTED] Meloon, [REDACTED] 25X1A9A
Peel, and [REDACTED]

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TIME : 2:30 p.m., 18 February 1953

PLACE : Director's Conference Room, Administration Building

1. Mr. Dulles addressed the meeting on the general problem of the administration of this Agency, pointing out that we probably faced the most difficult administrative situation in Government. We have no norms, yet have the greatest responsibility placed upon us. The unvouchered funds authority amounts to a sacred trust. The President, in discussing with Mr. Dulles his nomination as Director, stressed the problem of handling unvouchered funds in the administration of the Agency. Mr. Dulles feels that we should lean over backwards in maintaining control. He believes, however, that regardless of mechanical safeguards which may be established, in the end it is the integrity of the individual upon which we must depend.

2. Mr. Dulles remarked that based on discussions with officials of the new Administration he could draw the conclusion that the Administration is deeply concerned with the problem of governmental spending and the simultaneous protection of the "American Way of Life." We will undoubtedly have to tighten our belts along with the rest of the Government.

3. Mr. Dulles believes that our present administrative procedures are sound, that they represent a good framework upon which to operate, and he intends to make no sweeping changes, but, where possible, would desire to tighten up still further. In this regard, suggestions from any of the administrative officials of the Agency would be welcomed. He pointed out that if we should err in the exercise of our special authorities, we might very well lose our unvouchered funds, and this would be a death blow to the Agency.

4. Mr. Dulles remarked that he was proud of the administrative group gathered around the table and said, "I will back you." Mr. Wolf spoke of the excellent support he and the administrative office heads received from the Deputy Director (Plans) and particularly [REDACTED] in improvement of administration generally in the Agency. He remarked further that he particularly liked Mr. Dulles' choice of the word "trusteeship," in that he felt that this very aptly expressed the responsibilities we have. 25X1A9A

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5. Mr. Dulles asked whether, if we were so required, we could cut the personnel strength of the Agency, and Mr. Wolf replied that in his opinion when we have tightened up our procedures and have solved some of the middle-level supervisory problems that we could perform at our present level with a great many less people. He pointed out that one of the growing pains we have experienced as a result of our rapid growth is a supervisory problem in the middle levels of the Agency, with which point Colonel White and [REDACTED] agreed.

6. Mr. Dulles said that he wishes to fight for our present Table of Organization, representing as it does a reduction of our own doing, but that he knew the Administration was interested in supporting a great drive to reduce the cost of Government and that we might be faced with a cut. In this regard, he pointed out that the question of a new building for the Agency will be a serious problem, but he felt that we should make our strongest justification in terms of the extra costs created by having our people scattered widely in many, many buildings and on the grounds of the serious security risks involved in such scatter.

7. Mr. Wolf stated that in the past we had operated on the principle that we would exercise the Director's special powers only when essential and peculiar to this Agency and that otherwise, although not required, we did and would follow normal Government practice. Mr. Dulles held that this would continue to be the policy of the Agency.

[REDACTED]

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L. R. WHITE
Assistant Deputy Director
(Administration)

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